

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103(a):

Claims 1-10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over the prior art set forth in the present application on pages 1-5 and FIGS. 11-12 (Prior Art), in view of Ishikawa et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,600,455. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The outstanding Office Action indicates that it would have been obvious to modify Prior Art, in view of the teaching of Ishikawa et al., to set forth the presently claimed invention. Specifically, the Examiner recites that because Ishikawa et al. teaches to partially coarsen prism shaped elements on a transparent member to reduce stripe patterns, it would have been obvious to partially coarsen the prism shaped elements in Prior Art, and thus also reduce stripe patterns.

Prior Art sets forth a light control element in a light emitting surface light source. As illustrated in FIGS. 13 and 14, light which enters light control element 5 is redirected in a direction perpendicular to an exiting surface of a light guide plate, and is thereafter diffused by a diffusing sheet 6.

The Office Action appears to be arguing that Prior Art would suffer from the same stripe pattern problem that Ishikawa et al. overcomes, and thus there would be motivation for modifying Prior Art in a similar fashion as set forth in Ishikawa et al. Col. 1, line 63, through col. 2, line 4, of Ishikawa et al. recites: "When disposing this transparent member between the surface light source device and the liquid crystal display panel as shown in FIG. 1, such trouble sometimes happens that a direction 1a along which the top lines of the triangle portions are extended...is or lies upon bus lines of the liquid crystal display panel 4, and a stripe pattern as Moire, which is not desired, is generated."

It is also noted that Ishikawa et al. also sets forth that when a transparent member, as illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, is disposed between a surface light source device and a liquid crystal display, most of the diffused light is directed in a perpendicular or almost perpendicular direction with respect to the liquid display panel.

However, as illustrated in FIGS. 13 and 14 of the present application, corresponding to Prior Art, light exiting prism sheet 5 is directly thereafter diffused by light diffusing sheet 6. Thus, in Prior Art, the problem discussed in Ishikawa et al. **is not** relevant, as although the direction "along which the top lines of the triangle portions [is] extended is or lies upon bus lines of the liquid crystal display panel," **th light diffusing sheet of Prior art will diffuse th light exiting the prism sheet sufficiently to prevent the occurrence of the striped lines.** FIG.

14 of the present application, corresponding to Prior Art, illustrates how light striking the top and bottom portions of the prisms on the prism sheet are diffused prior to hitting any liquid crystal display panel.

Thus, the striped line problem discussed in Ishikawa et al. would not occur in the system of Prior Art. The striped line problem of Ishikawa et al. would appear to only be a concern in the physical arrangement set forth in Ishikawa et al., i.e., where the output of the transparent member is directly followed by a liquid crystal display panel.

Therefore, as the outstanding Office Action indicates that the sole motivation for modifying Prior Art to have part of prism slopes be roughened, as taught by Ishikawa et al., is to solve the striped line problem discussed in Ishikawa et al., it is respectfully submitted that as Prior Art would not suffer from such a problem, there would not have been motivation for such a modification of Prior Art.

It is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn as both Prior Art and Ishikawa et al. fail to suggest or provide any motivation for modifying Prior Art to include the claimed feature of part of repeating projections having a diffusible surface to generate a diffused light while light emitted from a light source is radiating within a light control element, as set forth in the independent claims.

In addition, it is noted that Ishikawa et al. and Prior Art are directed to two separate prism type arrangements, each with their own problems and corresponding specific solutions. The present invention, and that as recited in the claims, is directed to solve problems associated with a "prism portion **inward** arrangement," such as that of Prior Art, whereas Ishikawa et al. is directed to solve problems associated with a "prism portion **outward** arrangement." The problems associated with an **inward** prism arrangement of Prior Art are different from the problems associated with an **outward** prism arrangement of Ishikawa et al., and corresponding specific solutions cannot be merely interchanged between the two types of arrangements, as one problem in an outward prism arrangement may not be present in an inward prism arrangement, e.g., the solution provided in Ishikawa et al. is not relevant to Prior Art as Prior Art does not suffer from the same problem.

Therefore, for at least the above, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection of claims 1-10 be withdrawn and claims 1-10 be allowed.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

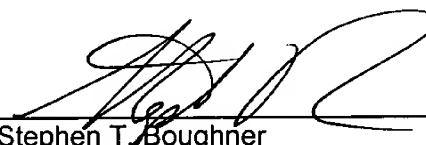
Respectfully submitted,

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8/13/01

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